

Hobbies

U.S. stands for unusual sale

By Roger Boye

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Unkle Sam is offering special price discounts in an attempt to spur sales of 1993 silver proof coins.

During August, a silver proof set will cost \$18 and a "premier silver proof set," \$29. Starting Sept. 1, those prices become \$21 and \$37.

The cheaper set is sealed in the same type of hard plastic case as the U.S. Mint's standard (non-silver) proof set, except that the background color is black instead of purple. The premier set comes in a black velvet presentation case lined with white satin.

Each set contains a dime, quarter and half dollar made with 90 percent silver and 10

percent copper, as well as a standard (non-silver) cent and nickel. Before 1965, the government made 90 percent silver coins for circulation, but production ended when the metal in those coins became worth almost as much as their face value.

Under a 1990 law, the U. S. Mint resurrected silver coinage, but just for proof sets, not for circulation. The program is designed to give Uncle Sam an orderly way to sell some of its silver reserves.

To order, send a check made payable to the U. S. Mint to the mint's Customer Service Center, 10001 Aerospace Drive, Lanham, Md. 20706. Include your name and address, and specify the type of set you are buying and quantity desired.